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## IDAHO.GOV JUMPS 21 NOTCHES IN BROWN UNIVERSITY RANKING

Brown University ranked Idaho 15<sup>th</sup> in its 6<sup>th</sup> annual state e-government analysis. The 2005 showing is a significant improvement over 2004's 36<sup>th</sup> ranking. Websites were



**BROWN**

evaluated for the presence of various electronic features, including online publications, online databases, audio clips, video clips, foreign language or language translation, advertisements, premium fees, user payments or fees, disability access, several measures of privacy policy, multiple indicators of security policy, presence of online services, the number of

online services, digital signatures, credit card payments, email addresses, comment forms, automatic email updates, website personalization, PDA accessibility, quality control, and readability level. @

## 12 IDAHO COUNTIES NOW OFFER ONLINE VEHICLE LICENSE RENEWAL SERVICE

Roughly half of all motor vehicles registered in Idaho are eligible for online license renewals now that a dozen counties in the Gem State offer the service.

Ada, Blaine, Canyon, Custer, Gem, Gooding, Kootenai, Madison, Oneida, Payette, Twin Falls, and Washington Counties are currently participating.

Online vehicle registration benefits include:

- No waiting in line
- Easy to use
- Always "open"
- Registration stickers likely to arrive sooner
- Able to change address on record

Since no taxpayer dollars were earmarked to build or maintain the online vehicle registration service, a nominal credit card surcharge and/or convenience fee is added to each transaction to recoup development/maintenance costs.

To renew online, users must log-in securely by entering their plate number and a PIN printed on the reminder postcard they receive from the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD).

Motorists pay the renewal fees using VISA, MasterCard, or Discover through the state's secure payment server. The disabled veteran plate is exempt from renewal fees and special charges.

Cars, motorcycles, trailers and RVs, whether they have the standard red-white-and-blue Idaho plates or any of the 33 specialty plates (forestry, wildlife, education, etc.), are renewable via the web.

Online registration is available around the clock every day, even weekends and holidays. As with the other renewal options offered, online registrants may renew for a one- or two-year period.



The internet service does not renew registrations for boats, off-road and snowmobile stickers; or for classic, dealer, exempt, legislative, loaner, old-timer, repossession, and transporter license plates.

New and used car buyers still need to visit their respective county's Division of Motor Vehicles for initial registration.

Under Idaho Code, county assessors process new and renewed vehicle registrations, while ITD maintains the records. @

## TAX COMMISSION INTRODUCES ONLINE VALIDATION SERVICES

The Idaho State Tax Commission recently launched three free online search tools that allow businesses to instantly verify sales tax permit, withholding tax, and motor fuel distributor information.



The sales tax permit validation tool at <https://www.accessidaho.org/secure/istc/permit/validate.html> identifies active Idaho sales tax permits by employer identification number (EIN) or business name.

The withholding information verification tool at <https://www.accessidaho.org/secure/istc/payroll/search.html> identifies the Idaho withholding account number, name control and filing cycle of companies, either individually or in bulk.



And the motor fuel distributor validation service at <https://www.accessidaho.org/secure/istc/fuel/search.html> verifies authorized Idaho fuel distributors by EIN or business name, either individually or in bulk.

The sales tax permit validation tool is unrestricted, whereas the withholding and motor fuel distributor services require authorization plus specially assigned usernames from the Tax Commission.

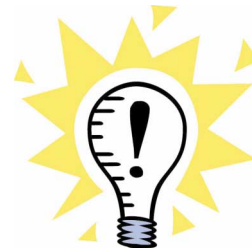
For set-up information and questions about any of these services, call the Tax Commission at 334-7783 in the Boise area or toll free at 1-800-972-7660, ext. 7783. @i



When helpful ideas, hints or suggestions strike you, send them to [rich@accessidaho.org](mailto:rich@accessidaho.org) for possible use in future newsletters.

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### Useful Ideas for Subscribers



### Visit the VIP Lounge

In addition to convenient billing options, online billing reports, and the ability to manage your account's users, the benefits of being an Access Idaho subscriber include receiving this quarterly *Access Press* newsletter.

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version internally because *Access Press* is available in our online VIP Lounge at [idaho.gov/subscriber](http://idaho.gov/subscriber).



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home, or on the road. The Lounge also features links to the state's innovative online services and convenient account management tools.

So share the wealth of information that *Access Press* has to offer. Tell your colleagues to visit our VIP Lounge. There's plenty of room for everyone! @i

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TAX DEADLINE IS JAN. 31



Don't forget that 4th quarter 2005 unemployment insurance tax filings and payments are due to the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor by Jan. 31, 2006. File/pay quickly and easily online using your Access Idaho username and password. If you're a first time online UI Tax filer, you'll also need a PIN from Commerce and Labor. For more details and to tour the demo, visit [idaho.gov/begin/uitax](http://idaho.gov/begin/uitax). @i